

REGULATIONS

Section 6(b)(4) of Pub. L. 101-335 provided that: “The Executive Director (as appointed under section 8474(a) of title 5, United States Code) shall prescribe regulations under which the purposes of the amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 8351, 8401, 8435, 8440a, and 8440b of this title] shall be carried out with respect to any individuals participating in the Thrift Savings Plan who would not otherwise be affected by this section.”

INVALIDITY OF CERTAIN PRIOR ELECTIONS

Section 101(f) [title VI, §659 [title II, §203(b)]] of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that: “Any election made under section 8433(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code (as in effect before the effective date of this title [Sept. 30, 1996]), with respect to an annuity which has not commenced before the implementation date of this title as provided by regulation by the Executive Director in accordance with section 207 of this title [5 U.S.C. 5545a note], shall be invalid.”

§ 8434. Annuities: methods of payment; election; purchase

(a)(1) The Board shall prescribe methods of payment of annuities under this subchapter.

(2) The methods of payment prescribed under paragraph (1) shall include, but not be limited to—

(A) a method which provides for the payment of a monthly annuity only to an annuitant during the life of the annuitant;

(B) a method which provides for the payment of a monthly annuity to an annuitant for the joint lives of the annuitant and the spouse of the annuitant and an appropriate monthly annuity to the one of them who survives the other of them for the life of the survivor;

(C) a method described in subparagraph (A) which provides for automatic adjustments in the amount of the annuity payable so long as the amount of the annuity payable in any one year shall not be less than the amount payable in the previous year;

(D) a method described in subparagraph (B) which provides for automatic adjustments in the amount of the annuity payable so long as the amount of the annuity payable in any one year shall not be less than the amount payable in the previous year; and

(E) a method which provides for the payment of a monthly annuity—

(i) to the annuitant for the joint lives of the annuitant and an individual who is designated by the annuitant under regulations prescribed by the Executive Director and (I) is a former spouse of the annuitant, or (II) has an insurable interest in the annuitant; and

(ii) to the one of them who survives the other of them for the life of the survivor.

(b) Subject to section 8435(b) of this title, under such regulations as the Executive Director shall prescribe, an employee, Member, former employee, or former Member who elects under section 8433 of this title to receive an annuity under this subchapter shall elect, on or before the date on which an annuity contract is purchased to provide for that annuity, one of the methods of payment prescribed under subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding the elimination of a method of payment by the Board, an employee, Member, former employee, or former Member may elect the eliminated method if the elimination of such method becomes effective less than 5 years before the date on which that individual's annuity commences.

(d)(1) Not earlier than 90 days (or such shorter period as the Executive Director may by regulation prescribe) before an annuity is to commence under this subchapter, the Executive Director shall expend the balance in the annuitant's account to purchase an annuity contract from any entity which, in the normal course of its business, sells and provides annuities.

(2) The Executive Director shall assure, by contract entered into with each entity from which an annuity contract is purchased under paragraph (1), that the annuity shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter and subchapter VII of this chapter.

(3) An annuity contract purchased under paragraph (1) shall include such terms and conditions as the Executive Director requires for the protection of the annuitant.

(4) The Executive Director shall require, from each entity from which an annuity contract is purchased under paragraph (1), a bond or proof of financial responsibility sufficient to protect the annuitant.

(e)(1) No tax, fee, or other monetary payment may be imposed or collected by any State, the District of Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or by any political subdivision or other governmental authority thereof, on, or with respect to, any amount paid to purchase an annuity contract under this section.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to exempt any company or other entity issuing an annuity contract under this section from the imposition, payment, or collection of a tax, fee, or other monetary payment on the net income or profit accruing to or realized by that entity from the sale of an annuity contract under this section if that tax, fee, or payment is applicable to a broad range of business activity.

(Added Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(a), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 546; amended Pub. L. 100-238, title I, §129, Jan. 8, 1988, 101 Stat. 1759; Pub. L. 101-335, §§4(a), 5(b), July 17, 1990, 104 Stat. 321; Pub. L. 103-226, §9(c), (i)(8), Mar. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 120, 122.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-226, §9(i)(8), substituted “section 8435(b)” for “section 8435(c)”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-226, §9(c), amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows: “Notwithstanding an elimination of a method of payment by the Board—

“(1) an employee, Member, former employee, or former Member who is entitled under section 8412 of this title to an immediate annuity not reduced under section 8415(f) of this title may elect the eliminated method if the elimination of such method became effective less than 5 years before the date on which the annuity commences; and

“(2) any other employee, Member, former employee, or former Member may elect such method of payment for amounts contributed by or on behalf of the employee, Member, former employee, or former Member under section 8432 of this title before such effective date and for earnings attributable to such amounts.”

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-335, §5(b)(1), substituted “an annuity contract is purchased to provide for that annuity,” for “the annuity commences.”

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 101-335, §5(b)(2), substituted “Not earlier than 90 days (or such shorter period as the Executive Director may by regulation prescribe) before an annuity” for “At the time an annuity”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-335, §4(a), added subsec. (e).

1988—Subsec. (a)(2)(C), (D). Pub. L. 100-238 amended subpars. (C) and (D) generally. Prior to amendment, subpars. (C) and (D) read as follows:

“(C) a method described in subparagraph (A) which provides annual increases in the amount of the annuity payable;

“(D) a method described in subparagraph (B) which provides annual increases in the amount of the annuity payable; and”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-226 effective Mar. 10, 1995, see section 9(j) of Pub. L. 103-226, set out as a note under section 8351 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Section 4(b) of Pub. L. 101-335 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [July 17, 1990].”

Amendment by section 5(b) of Pub. L. 101-335 effective Apr. 1, 1987, see section 5(d) of Pub. L. 101-335, set out as a note under section 8433 of this title.

§ 8435. Protections for spouses and former spouses

(a)(1)(A) A married employee or Member (or former employee or Member) may withdraw all or part of a Thrift Savings Fund account under subsection (b)(2), (3), or (4) of section 8433 of this title or change a withdrawal election only if the employee or Member (or former employee or Member) satisfies the requirements of subparagraph (B). A married employee or Member (or former employee or Member) may make a withdrawal from a Thrift Savings Fund account under subsection (c)(1) of section 8433 of this title only if the employee or Member (or former employee or Member) satisfies the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) An employee or Member (or former employee or Member) may make an election or change referred to in subparagraph (A) if the employee or Member and the employee's or Member's spouse (or the former employee or Member and the former employee's or Member's spouse) jointly waive, by written election, any right which the spouse may have to a survivor annuity with respect to such employee or Member (or former employee or Member) under section 8434 of this title or subsection (b).

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an election or change of election by an employee or Member (or former employee or Member) who establishes to the satisfaction of the Executive Director (at the time of the election or change and in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Executive Director)—

(A) that the spouse's whereabouts cannot be determined; or

(B) that, due to exceptional circumstances, requiring the spouse's waiver would otherwise be inappropriate.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any election under subsection (b) of section 8434 of this title, the meth-

od described in subsection (a)(2)(B) of such section (or, if more than one form of such method is available, the form which the Board determines to be the one which provides for a surviving spouse a survivor annuity most closely approximating the annuity of a surviving spouse under section 8442 of this title) shall be deemed the applicable method under such subsection (b) in the case of an employee, Member, former employee, or former Member who is married on the date on which an annuity contract is purchased to provide for the employee's, Member's, former employee's, or former Member's annuity under this subchapter.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

(A) a joint waiver of such method is made, in writing, by the employee or Member and the spouse; or

(B) the employee or Member waives such method, in writing, after establishing to the satisfaction of the Executive Director that circumstances described under subsection (a)(2)(A) or (B) make the requirement of a joint waiver inappropriate.

(c)(1) An election or change of election shall not be effective under this subchapter to the extent that the election, change, or transfer conflicts with any court decree, order, or agreement described in paragraph (2).

(2) A court decree, order, or agreement referred to in paragraph (1) is, with respect to an employee or Member (or former employee or Member), a court decree of divorce, annulment, or legal separation issued in the case of such employee or Member (or former employee or Member) and any former spouse of the employee or Member (or former employee or Member) or any court order or court-approved property settlement agreement incident to such decree if—

(A) the decree, order, or agreement expressly relates to any portion of the balance in the employee's or Member's (or former employee's or Member's) account; and

(B) notice of the decree, order, or agreement was received by the Executive Director before—

(i) the date on which payment is made, or

(ii) in the case of an annuity, the date on which an annuity contract is purchased to provide for the annuity,

in accordance with the election, change, or contribution referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) The Executive Director shall prescribe regulations under which this subsection shall be applied in any case in which the Executive Director receives two or more decrees, orders, or agreements referred to in paragraph (1).

(d)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) through (7), a former spouse of a deceased employee or Member (or a deceased former employee or Member) who died after performing 18 or more months of service and a former spouse of a deceased former employee or Member who died entitled to an immediate or deferred annuity under subchapter II of this chapter is entitled to a survivor annuity under this subsection if and to the extent that—

(A) an election under section 8434(a)(2)(E) of this title, or

(B) any court decree, order, or agreement (described in subsection (c)(2), without regard